

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-19

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

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AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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S E C R E T USNATO 2907

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: LINK BETWEEN PHASES: SPC DISCUSSION MAY 24 ON
ASSURANCES TO OTHER SIDE

REF: A) USNATO 2581; B) USNATO 2740; C) USNATO 2813; D) VIENNA 4649

VIENNA FOR USDEL MBFR

BEGIN SUMMARYM SPC ON MAY 24 HAD BRIEF DISCUSSION OF SECTION IV
(ASSURANCES TO THE OTHER SIDE ON PHASE II REDUCTIONS) OF DRAFT
GUIDANCE TO AHG ON LINKAGE (REF A). FRG AND ITALY SUPPORTED
BELGIAN SUGGESTION, WHICH INCLUDES US IN COMMITMENT TO REDUCE
IN PHASE II. UK AND CANADIAN REPS HAD NO DECISION FROM CAPITALS
ON THEIR COUNTRIES' INCLUSION IN COMMITMENT. SPC AGAIN CONSIDERS
SECTION IV ON MAY 29. MISSION RECOMMENDS THAT, IF WASHINGTON
CONSIDERS US PHASE II REDUCTIONS LIKELY, WE INFORM THE ALLIES AT
THIS TIME IN ORDER TO FACILITATE AGREEMENT ON SECTION IV. END
SECRET

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SUMMARY.

1. GERMAN REP SAID PRELIMINARY REACTION OF HIS AUTHORITIES IS VERY
MUCH IN FAVOR OF BELGIAN SUGGESTION AT MAY 21 SPC (REFS B AND C).

HE COULD NOW CONFIRM THAT FRG PARTICULARLY WELCOMED THAT BELGIUM WANTED TO MAKE THE ASSURANCES TO THE OTHER SIDE BY A COLLECTIVE DECLARATION OF INTENT. US REP REITERATED THAT US PREFERRED THAT GUIDANCE NOT TAKE A STANCE ON THE FORM OF ASSURANCES, IN ORDER NOT TO GIVE THE OTHER SIDE THE OPPORTUNITY TO BEGIN NEGOTIATING A DECLARATION OF INTENT AT THIS TIME. ITALIAN REP SAID PRELIMINARY VIEW OF ITALY ALSO FAVORABLE TO BELGIAN SUGGESTION, PARTICULARLY ITS FINAL PHRASE, WHICH PRECLUDES NATIONAL SUB-CEILINGS.

2. UK AND CANADIAN REPS STILL HAD NOTHING FROM THEIR CAPITALS ON THEIR ABILITY TO MAKE ASSURANCES TO OTHER SIDE.

3. SPC CHAIRMAN POINTED OUT SPC MEETING WEDNESDAY, MAY 29, WILL BE ALLIES' LAST OPPORTUNITY TO PUT SECTION IV IN SHAPE FOR NAC CONSIDERATION, IF ALLIES ARE TO MEET AHG END-OF-MAY DEADLINE FOR THIS GUIDANCE.

4. MISSION COMMENT. KEY ELEMENT OF BELGIAN SUGGESTION FROM US STANDPOINT IS US COMMITMENT TO REDUCE IN PHASE II. THE PRELIMINARY VIEW OF FRG AND ITALY IS TO SUPPORT BELGIAN SUGGESTION. MISSION BELIEVES THAT TO HAVE A CHANCE FOR ALLIED AGREEMENT ON SECTION IV GUIDANCE BY THE AGH DEADLINE, THE US WILL NEED TO MAKE

AT MAY 29 SPC A MORE POSITIVE STATEMENT ABOUT US PARTICIPATION IN PHASE II THAN WE HAVE TO DATE. WE NOTE VIENNA'S JUDGEMENT THAT THE US WILL NEED TO INFORM THE SOVIETS THAT WE WILL REDUCE IN PHASE II TO GET SOVIET REDUCTIONS IN PHASE II, AND THAT IT WOULD BE PREMATURE TO RAISE THE ISSUE OF SOVIET PARTICIPATION WITH THE EAST AT THIS TIME. IF WASHINGTON CONSIDERS IT LIKELY WE SHALL EVENTUALLY TAKE SUCH A POSITION, NOW IS THE TIME TO INFORM OUR ALLIES.

5. WE WOULD SUGGEST PUTTING VIENNA'S PHRASE "IT IS PROBABLE THAT THE US WOULD WISH TO PARTICIPATE IN PHASE II," IN PARENTHESES AS THE FINAL SENTENCE OF US FIRST BRACKETED PARA OF SECTION IV (REF A). THE PARENTHESES WOULD FLAG THE SENTENCE AS NOT FOR USE WITH THE OTHER SIDE AT THIS TIME. ALTERNATIVELY WE COULD SEEK
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TO INSERT SUCH A SENTENCE INTO THE BELGIAN FORMULATION, AND TO DELETE THE LATTER'S REFERENCE TO A COLLECTIVE DECLARATION OF INTENT. MORE POSITIVE US ASSURANCES THAN THE ABOVE PHRASE WOULD OF COURSE MAKE ALLIED AGREEMENT ON SECTION IV MORE LIKELY.

6. MISSION DISAGREES WITH VIENNA'S VIEW THAT SUCH US PHASE II ASSURANCES MIGHT ALSO BE USED TO BENEFICIAL EFFECT ON SECTION V OF DRAFT GUIDANCE. US PHASE II ASSURANCES CAN BE EXPECTED TO FACILITATE AGREEMENT ON SECTION IV ONLY, BY HELPING TO OVERCOME CONCERN THAT THE OTHER ALLIES WILL BE ALONE AGAINST THE SOVIETS IN PHASE II NEGOTIATIONS, AND THAT THE SOVIETS WILL NOT REDUCE IN PHASE II. SUCH ASSURANCES WILL NOT AFFECT THE CONCERNS OF THOSE ALLIES WHO HAVE PROBLEMS WITH THE WITHDRAWAL PROVISION IN SECTION V.

END MISSION COMMENT. MCAULIFFE

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